

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
8 AT SEATTLE

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
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11 Plaintiff,  
12 v.  
13 THANH CONG PHAN,  
14 Defendant.

CASE NO. CR18-0086-JCC  
ORDER

15 This matter comes before the Court on Defendant's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 56) his  
16 supplement to the competency proceeding (Dkt. No. 57).

17 "There is a strong presumption of public access to the court's files." W.D. Wash. Local  
18 Civ. R. 5(g). To overcome this presumption, there must be a "compelling reason" for sealing  
19 sufficient to outweigh the public's interest in disclosure. *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp.,*  
20 *LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1101 (9th Cir. 2016) (applying the "compelling reason" test to motions to  
21 seal documents that are "more than tangentially related to the merits of a case"). Defendant seeks  
22 to maintain under seal his supplement to the competency hearing. (Dkt. Nos. 56, 57.) The  
23 supplement contains highly sensitive and personal information about Defendant, in which the  
24 public has minimal interest. (Dkt. No. 57.) On this basis, the Court finds a compelling reason to  
25 seal Defendant's supplement that outweighs the public's interest in its disclosure.

26 For the foregoing reasons, Defendant's motion to seal (Dkt. No. 56) is GRANTED. The

1 Clerk is DIRECTED to maintain Docket Number 57 under seal.

2 DATED this 2nd day of August 2019.

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6 John C. Coughenour  
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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